Trainings for Classroom Teachers

What’s the Heart of the Matter? AKA Thesis Bootcamp
A workshop centered on helping students arrive at the heart of the idea they want to write about. Offers strategies for pre-writing, revising a thesis, and unpacking a big, broad idea to arrive at the level of depth and specificity that good writing requires.

Revision and Feedback Strategies that Work
Do your students struggle to improve their writing? Do they copy over rough drafts, or fix spelling errors and call it final and complete? This workshop offers powerful teaching strategies for helping students buy into the revision process and re-engage with and clarify the ideas and structures within their writing.

Making Thinking Visible Through Writing and Discussion
A series of frameworks and excellent, classroom-ready strategies for deepening student engagement with complex text and ideas. Helping teachers to identify and generate low-stakes writing strategies that allow students to think through writing-to-learn.

Mechanics, Mechanics, Mechanics
Do your students struggle with proofreading and editing? Do they have great ideas but when they put pen to paper, the results don’t always make sense? Do you want to teach grammar but don’t know how to do it in an effective and constructive way? This workshop addresses both the framework and the specific strategies behind effective instruction around mechanics, editing, and proofreading.

Designing and Assessing Powerful Writing Assignments
How to structure writing assignments that match your goals for student learning and clearly communicate those goals to students. Designing rubrics and criteria for success that match your instructional foci and make grading transparent and (hopefully!) more efficient.

Making CCSS Writing Real: Unpacking the CCSS Genres
Digging into narrative, argumentative, and informational writing and strategies for weaving them into the curriculum in authentic ways.

Putting Pen to Paper: Strategies for Getting Students to Embark on a Thoughtful First Draft
Supporting the drafting process with modeling, clear instructional foci, and strategies for helping students balance planning a thoughtful draft with getting out of their own way and writing.
Building Excellent Arguments— Argumentative Writing, Speaking, & Reasoning
Infusing claim, evidence, and reasoning into a myriad of classroom writing and discussion opportunities. This session focuses on moving away from a paint-by-numbers approach with an eye towards depth of understanding and engagement.

Scaffolding that Supports Deep Thinking and Strong Writing…And Is Intended to Disappear
Strategies for identifying student need and helping to pair them with the right level of strategic scaffolding. Scaffolding strategies that deepen thinking around structure, voice, and argumentation.

Audience Specific Training:
Administrators, Instructional Leaders, & Instructional Teams

Writing is Thinking: Coaches' Edition
Strengthening coaching practice around common core-aligned writing in classrooms and helping teachers build in more frequent writing-to-learn opportunities. Includes co-observations, co-planning and co-facilitating meetings, thought partner sessions, and is highly flexible to meet instructional leadership needs.

Writing is Thinking: Administrators' Edition
What are the highest leverage writing practices administrators should be seeing across the curriculum? What do administrators need to know in order to effectively observe and evaluate writing practices? Includes, learning walks, small group professional development, Q&A, and protocols for learning from student work. Highly responsive to administrator need.

Writing 101 for School Partners
What is the current landscape for school-based writing? What are the school writing genres? What are the pressures that schools face around writing (PARCC, MCAS, Common Core, etc.)? What does a savvy school partner need to know in order to talk shop with the teachers/school and connect what you are doing in your sessions to what students are doing in their classroom?

Common Writing Assessment Support
Facilitating data meetings, supporting the creation of common writing assessments or, alternately, using ANET or other pre-created writing prompts effectively building-wide. Stress-testing rubrics, norming grading practices, tracking data in clear and logical ways, and generating next instructional steps.

Writing Across the Curriculum Institute
Three to five full-day sessions that focus on bringing a cohort of teachers from across content areas to a shared understanding of best practices around writing.